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Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Susan A. H. [Signature]
Buchanan Ingersoll, P.C.
September 27, 2004
Date

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/636,359
Applicant : Robert E. Reuter, et al.
Filed : August 11, 2000
Title : HYBRID OFFICE PANEL CONSTRUCTION FOR A MODULAR
OFFICE FURNITURE SYSTEM
Group Art Unit : 3635
Examiner : C. Nguyen
Docket No. : 000519

REPLY TO
EXAMINER'S ANSWER

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
September 27, 2004

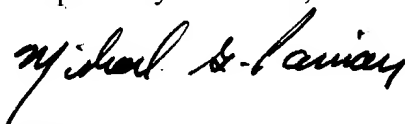
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Dear Sir:

In the Examiner's Answer mailed July 27, 2004, the Examiner has stated that no amendment after final has been filed. However, in a phone call to Examiner Nguyen, he stated that Applicant's Amended Brief filed on April 30, 2004 was the brief to which the Examiner's answer was directed. In there, there is an amendment to claim 1 in order to insert the word "unobstructed."

In the Examiner's answer, it is stated that the wiring is not claimed. The Examiner states that wiring could be arranged in the cavity shown in Charman. However, it is respectfully submitted that Charman teaches away from wiring an "unobstructed cavity within the panel" as described in the Applicant's invention. In fact, Charman discloses the use of a cable tray 80, and teaches away from Applicant's invention. The Board's attention is directed to column 7, beginning at line 30.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Panian", written in a cursive style.

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